Re-Enrolled Student Project (RSP)

The Re-Enrolled Student Project (RSP) serves over 950 youth in community based, alternative high schools. More than 2,000 teens have graduated or obtained their GED since RSP began in 2006.

How do you keep teens that have given up on high school encouraged, engaged and enrolled? Just ask any of the dedicated educators participating in the Re-Enrolled Student Project!

The Re-Enrolled Student Project (RSP) is a collaboration between the Alternative Schools Network (ASN), the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and ASN’s member schools. RSP provides expanded academic and wraparound services through programs centered in community-based alternative high schools across Chicago. RSP focuses on getting students re-enrolled and supporting them in every way possible.

Twenty high schools are currently participating in the Re-Enrolled Student Project (RSP). The success of RSP is due largely to the efforts of these schools to reach out and locate out-of-school teens in their community, get them re-enrolled and provide a consistently safe and structured learning environment where students can focus. Celeste Sutton, MA, RSP Mentor at Prologue Early College High School shares her philosophy with us, “What if the cure for cancer is trapped inside the mind of a person who cannot afford an education? This is why education should be a right, not a privilege. The RSP program makes this possible for many youth who have limited privileges.”

Through RSP, ASN works with schools to understand barriers to education and identify opportunities to change reluctant learners into lifelong achievers. RSP helps to knock down these barriers by supporting the schools in developing high-quality educational programs and activities that minimize anxiety and maximize learning potential. Students discover how to embrace lifelong learning and self-motivation through successes.

Jazzine Fargas, Student Data Manager/ Assistant Dean at El Cuarto Ano High School tells us, “You have to always express care to a student in one way or another. Allow them to receive the necessities they are lacking from home or society. This gives them the desire to achieve and to feel noticed, which then gives them the will to succeed.”

RSP serves over 950 out-of-school teens. We are so proud to say that, thanks to the passion and commitment of our member schools, over 2,000 teens that had previously given up hope on high school and dropped out have graduated.

The Re-Enrolled Student Project helps steer tomorrow’s leaders towards a positive future by supporting college and technical school tours and preparation and participation in Job Fairs. RSP encourages schools to provide mentors and outreach coordinators to help navigate the challenges and celebrate the successes of each student. RSP also helps enrich students’ lives with exposure to unique and memorable cultural and multicultural experiences.

As each school designs their own unique program, here are some of the ways that RSP can help them enhance their academic programs and student services:

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Keeping Students Encouraged

Mentors and Student Advocates

- Representing and advocating for individual students by providing one-on-one support and counseling; helping with attendance problems and social issues; recommending methods for improving time management and goal setting skills.

Social and Emotional Learning

- Helping students learn methods to improve communication, problem-solving skills and conflict resolution tactics through programs that build self-esteem, positive socialization skills and character development.

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Preparing for the Future
- Steering students toward a positive future by providing college and technical school tours; resume preparation, interview attire and transportation to Job Fairs; workshops on college admission requirements, applications, scholarship essay completion and financial aid; testing fees (ACT, SAT, etc.).

Keeping Students Engaged

Cultural Activities
- Enriching the lives of students with education and exposure to unique and memorable cultural and multicultural experiences such as theatre performances, trips to museums and community activism events.

Technology Enhancements
- Developing strong independent study habits, research and technical skills with the addition of computer labs, on-site coordinators and virtual classes to supplement needed credits.

Keeping Students Enrolled

Expansion of Early Assessments
- Helping to target placement of students in appropriate classes and supplemental learning activities to ensure success in school.

Outreach Coordinators
- Reaching out to students and families to help navigate the challenges and celebrate the successes of the student via home visits, frequent phone calls and other support activities.

Additional Teachers
- Supplementing the teaching staff to improve student-teacher ratios and provide a more hands-on approach; adding specialists/master teachers in specific areas of needed improvement such as Reading and Math.

Emergency Funds
- Keeping students in school by providing emergency funds for issues such as safe transportation to and from school, clothing needs and even food when necessary.

Graduations
- Recognizing the accomplishments of the student and the school and commemorating this major milestone with graduation ceremonies, educational awards and senior events.